

# NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



AS I SEE IT

## **Welcome to the 2009-2010 School Year**

*August 24, 2009*

Nothing is more exciting than the first day of school! There is energy in every community surrounding the beginning of a new school year. Shoppers are out buying supplies ranging from crayons to thumb drives. Stores stocked with new clothes, new shoes, pens, pencils, and back packs are soon invaded by the throngs of people anxious to have exactly what they need for a great school year. Family schedules are re-instituted so going to bed earlier won't be a hassle. The summer maintenance of school buildings is done and the school grounds are groomed to welcome in the new year. The army of yellow buses takes to the roads.

For far too many children school is where they spend their safest hours of the day; where they eat the only nutritious meals in a day; and where they find their most nurturing environment with people who care about their well being. In every school in North Carolina, you will find bright, energetic students, eager to learn. You will find intelligent, well-trained, dedicated professionals taking their students down an exciting path of discovery - from something so simple as how to print their name, to something as sophisticated as building a robot.

I invite you to visit a school this year. Rather than relying on others to form your opinion of our public schools, go see for yourself. For some you will have renewed appreciation for the work going on. For others, you will be surprised at how education has changed. But for all, you will leave with a better understanding of how important a free public education is to our future.

Bill Harrison, Chairman  
State Board of Education